INDEX TO AUTHORS: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT, 1981

A

Aguanno, J. J., Ritzmann, S. E., Hall, S. B., Pace, M. C., McCoy, M. T., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Albers, J. J. and Warnick, G. R.: Lipoprotein Measurement in the Clinical Laboratory, Feb., 31

B

Barwick, R. C., Schneider, R. G., and Hightower, B. J.: Laboratory Identification of the Hemoglobinopathies, Aug., 29

Bates, H. M.:
Ectopic Pregnancy: RIA for the beta-hCG Subunit, Feb., 27
Evaluating Splenic Function, May, 9
GGTP and Alcoholism: A Sober Look, March,17
HLA Testing for Paternity, Nov., 30
Macroamylasemia, June, 33

Bederka, J. P.: (Letter), June, 9

Bernard, A. and Detrick-Hooks, B.: T and B Lymphocytes: Assays in Malignant and Nonmalignant Disease, May, 41

Biekert, E. J. and Nankervis, G. A.: Herpes Simplex: Diagnostic Methods, June, 63

Biese, L. P. and Pribor, H. C.: Putting Your Microcomputer to Work, April, 19

Bokkenheuser, V. D.: Human Campylobacteriosis: Laboratory and Clinical Aspects, June, 55

Braun, W. E.: The HLA Antigens in Diagnostic Medicine, Sept., 45

Brown, W. V. and Gibson, J. C.: HDL Assays: Methods and Their Rationale, Sept., 25

Brynes, R. K. and Conn, R. B.: Technology Transfer: Guidelines for the Laboratorian, Nov., 35

Burg, A. W.: Diagnostic Testing: The Coming Decade of Change, April, 45

C

Carlson, B. J.: (Letter); Nov., 9

Carter, H. W. and Hanker, J. S.: (Letter), Sept., 13

Cohen, H.: (Letter); June, 9

Conn, R. B. and Brynes, R. K.: Technology Transfer: Guidelines for the Laboratorian, Nov., 35

Cook, J. D. and Skikne, B. S.: Serum Ferritin in Iron—Status Evaluation, May, 31

Cooper, B. H.: Rapid Methods for the Laboratory Diagnosis of Fungal Disease, April, 37

D

Demers, L. M.: Prostatic Acid Phosphatase: Assay Comparisons, Aug., 45

Deodhar, S. D. and Valenzuela, R.: C-Reactive Protein: New Findings and Specific Applications, June, 47

Detrick-Hooks, B. and Bernard, A.: T and B Lymphocytes: Assays in Malignant and Nonmalignant Disease, May, 41

De Vivo, D. C. and Nicholson, J. F.: Pathologic and Clinical Findings in Reye Syndrome, March, 41

Dierksheide, W. C: (Letter), Feb., 19

Di Pietro, D. L.: Ectopic Pregnancy: Interpreting hCG Levels, Nov., 43

Duello, T. J. and Pribor, H. C.: Hepatitis: Diagnostic Profiles, July, 8

Duran, O.: (Letter), Sept., 13

E

Engel, R. H.: Graves' Disease: Thyroid Stimulating Immunoglobulins, Nov., 53

F

Faulkner, W. R.: The Trace Elements in Laboratory Medicine, July, 21

Fischbein, A.: Zinc Protoporphyrin in Lead Poisoning, Jan., 25

Friedman, H. and Specter, S.: Microbiology and Serology: Progress in Automation, Sept., 37

G

Gibson, J. C. and Brown, W. V.: HDL Assays: Methods and Their Rationale, Sept., 25

H

Hall, S. B., Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Pace, M. C., McCoy, M. T., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Hanker, J. S. and Carter, H. W.: (Letter), Sept., 13

Hightower, B. J., Schneider, R. G., and Barwick, R. C.: Laboratory Identification of the Hemoglobinopathies, Aug., 29

Hosein, Z. and Johnson, K. P.: The Laboratory Identification of Multiple Sclerosis, May, 36

J

Johnson, K. P. and Hosein, Z.: The Laboratory Identification of Multiple Sclerosis, May, 36

Johnston, W. W.: Cytopathology of Opportunistic Respiratory Infection, July, 43

M

Marcus, J. I. and Pribor, H. C.: Pregnancy Testing—The Real and the Ideal, March, 9

Matthews, H. M.: Parasitic Disease: Testing With Filter-Paper Blood Spots, Feb., 55

McCoy, M. T., Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Hall, S. B., Pace, M. C., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Mittag, T.: Myasthenia Gravis: The Acetylcholine Receptor Assay, July, 37

Morrell, G. and Pribor, H. C.: Albuterol: Laboratory Considerations, Aug., 15

Morrell, G. and Pribor, H. C.: Plasma Digoxin: Therapeutic Monitoring, June, 23

N

Nankervis, G. A. and Biekert, E. J.: Herpes Simplex: Diagnostic Methods, June, 63

Nicholson, J. F. and De Vivo, D. C.: Pathologic and Clinical Findings in Reye Syndrome, March, 41

P

Pace, M. C., Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Hall, S. B., McCoy, M. T., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Penn, G. M.: The Monoclonal Gammopathies: Laboratory Detection, March, 30

Philip, A.: Infant Botulism, Aug., 53

Pippenger, C. E.: Therapeutic Drug Monitoring: A Current View, April, 31

Pribor, H. C.: Biochemical Profiling: Another Look, Feb., 23

Pribor, H. C. and Biese, L. P.: Putting Your Microcomputer to Work, April, 19

Pribor, H. C. and Duello, T. J.: Hepatitis: Diagnostic Profiles, July, 8

Pribor, H. C. and Marcus, J. I.: Pregnancy Testing—The Real and the Ideal, March, 9

Pribor, H. C. and Morrell, G.: Albuterol: Laboratory Considerations, Aug., 15
Plasma Digoxin: Therapeutic Monitoring, June, 23

Pribor, H. C., Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Hall, S. B., Pace, M. C., and McCoy, M. T.: Bence Jone Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Pribor, H. C. and Scarry, R. L.: Rubella Testing in the Clinical Laboratory, May, 23

Pribor, H. C. and Senhauser, D. A.: The Pathologist in the '80s, Jan., 9

R

Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Hall, S. B., Pace, M. C.,McCoy, M. T., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Roberts, S. B., Yelton, D. E., and Scharff, M. D.: Hybridomas and Monoclonal Antibodies, Jan., 19

S

Scarry, R. L. and Pribor, H. C.: Rubella Testing in the Clinical Laboratory, May, 23

Scharff, M. D., Yelton, D. E., and Roberts, S. B.: Hybridomas and Monoclonal Antibodies, Jan., 19

Schneider, R. G., Hightower, B. J., and Barwick, R. C.: Laboratory Identification of the Hemoglobinopathies, Aug., 29

Seegers, W. H.: Antithrombin III: Function and Assay, March, 23

Senhauser, D. A. and Pribor, H. C.: The Pathologist in the 80s, Jan., 9

Skikne, B. S. and Cook, J. D.: Serum Ferritin in Iron—Status Evaluation, May, 31

Slaunwhite, D.: (Letter), Aug., 12

Specter, S. and Friedman, H.: Microbiology and Serology: Progress in Automation, Sept., 37

Stansell, M.J.: (Letter), June, 9

Steele, R.: (Letter), Sept., 13

Stryker, M. H. and Waldman, A. A.: Blood Components: Preparation and Quality Control, Feb., 43

V

Valenzuela, R. and Deodhar, S. D.: C-Reactive Protein: New Findings and Specific Applications, June, 47

W

Waldman, A. A. and Stryker, M. H.: Blood Components: Preparation and Quality Control, Feb., 43

Warnick, G. R. and Albers, J. J.: Lipoprotein Measurement in the Clinical Laboratory, Feb., 31

Waters, J. J.
Leadership Development, Aug., 61
The Maladaptive Personality, Feb., 18
The Maladaptive Personality: II, May, 53
The Small Community, Nov., 67

Wenz, B.: (Letter), Nov. 9

Westlake, G. E.: Microcomputers: Servants for Your Laboratory, Jan., 35

Williams, H.: (Letter), April, 9

Yelton, D. E., Roberts, S. B., and Scharff, M. D.: Hybridomas and Monoclonal Antibodies, Jan., 19

INDEX TO AUTHORS: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT, 1981

A

Aguanno, J. J., Ritzmann, S. E., Hall, S. B., Pace, M. C., McCoy, M. T., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Albers, J. J. and Warnick, G. R.: Lipoprotein Measurement in the Clinical Laboratory, Feb., 31

B

Barwick, R. C., Schneider, R. G., and Hightower, B. J.: Laboratory Identification of the Hemoglobinopathies, Aug., 29

Bates, H. M.:
Ectopic Pregnancy: RIA for the beta-hCG Subunit, Feb., 27
Evaluating Splenic Function, May, 9
GGTP and Alcoholism: A Sober Look, March,17
HLA Testing for Paternity, Nov., 30
Macroamylasemia, June, 33

Bederka, J. P.: (Letter), June, 9

Bernard, A. and Detrick-Hooks, B.: T and B Lymphocytes: Assays in Malignant and Nonmalignant Disease, May, 41

Biekert, E. J. and Nankervis, G. A.: Herpes Simplex: Diagnostic Methods, June, 63

Biese, L. P. and Pribor, H. C.: Putting Your Microcomputer to Work, April, 19

Bokkenheuser, V. D.: Human Campylobacteriosis: Laboratory and Clinical Aspects, June, 55

Braun, W. E.: The HLA Antigens in Diagnostic Medicine, Sept., 45

Brown, W. V. and Gibson, J. C.: HDL Assays: Methods and Their Rationale, Sept., 25

Brynes, R. K. and Conn, R. B.: Technology Transfer: Guidelines for the Laboratorian, Nov., 35

Burg, A. W.: Diagnostic Testing: The Coming Decade of Change, April, 45

C

Carlson, B. J.: (Letter); Nov., 9

Carter, H. W. and Hanker, J. S.: (Letter), Sept., 13

Cohen, H.: (Letter); June, 9

Conn, R. B. and Brynes, R. K.: Technology Transfer: Guidelines for the Laboratorian, Nov., 35

Cook, J. D. and Skikne, B. S.: Serum Ferritin in Iron—Status Evaluation, May, 31

Cooper, B. H.: Rapid Methods for the Laboratory Diagnosis of Fungal Disease, April, 37

D

Demers, L. M.: Prostatic Acid Phosphatase: Assay Comparisons, Aug., 45

Deodhar, S. D. and Valenzuela, R.: C-Reactive Protein: New Findings and Specific Applications, June, 47

Detrick-Hooks, B. and Bernard, A.: T and B Lymphocytes: Assays in Malignant and Nonmalignant Disease, May, 41

De Vivo, D. C. and Nicholson, J. F.: Pathologic and Clinical Findings in Reye Syndrome, March, 41

Dierksheide, W. C: (Letter), Feb., 19

Di Pietro, D. L.: Ectopic Pregnancy: Interpreting hCG Levels, Nov., 43

Duello, T. J. and Pribor, H. C.: Hepatitis: Diagnostic Profiles, July, 8

Duran, O.: (Letter), Sept., 13

E

Engel, R. H.: Graves' Disease: Thyroid Stimulating Immunoglobulins, Nov., 53

F

Faulkner, W. R.: The Trace Elements in Laboratory Medicine, July, 21

Fischbein, A.: Zinc Protoporphyrin in Lead Poisoning, Jan., 25

Friedman, H. and Specter, S.: Microbiology and Serology: Progress in Automation, Sept., 37

G

Gibson, J. C. and Brown, W. V.: HDL Assays: Methods and Their Rationale, Sept., 25

H

Hall, S. B., Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Pace, M. C., McCoy, M. T., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Hanker, J. S. and Carter, H. W.: (Letter), Sept., 13

Hightower, B. J., Schneider, R. G., and Barwick, R. C.: Laboratory Identification of the Hemoglobinopathies, Aug., 29

Hosein, Z. and Johnson, K. P.: The Laboratory Identification of Multiple Sclerosis, May, 36

J

Johnson, K. P. and Hosein, Z.: The Laboratory Identification of Multiple Sclerosis, May, 36

Johnston, W. W.: Cytopathology of Opportunistic Respiratory Infection, July, 43

M

Marcus, J. I. and Pribor, H. C.: Pregnancy Testing—The Real and the Ideal, March, 9

Matthews, H. M.: Parasitic Disease: Testing With Filter-Paper Blood Spots, Feb., 55

McCoy, M. T., Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Hall, S. B., Pace, M. C., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Mittag, T.: Myasthenia Gravis: The Acetylcholine Receptor Assay, July, 37

Morrell, G. and Pribor, H. C.: Albuterol: Laboratory Considerations, Aug., 15

Morrell, G. and Pribor, H. C.: Plasma Digoxin: Therapeutic Monitoring, June, 23

N

Nankervis, G. A. and Biekert, E. J.: Herpes Simplex: Diagnostic Methods, June, 63

Nicholson, J. F. and De Vivo, D. C.: Pathologic and Clinical Findings in Reye Syndrome, March, 41

P

Pace, M. C., Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Hall, S. B., McCoy, M. T., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Penn, G. M.: The Monoclonal Gammopathies: Laboratory Detection, March, 30

Philip, A.: Infant Botulism, Aug., 53

Pippenger, C. E.: Therapeutic Drug Monitoring: A Current View, April, 31

Pribor, H. C.: Biochemical Profiling: Another Look, Feb., 23

Pribor, H. C. and Biese, L. P.: Putting Your Microcomputer to Work, April, 19

Pribor, H. C. and Duello, T. J.: Hepatitis: Diagnostic Profiles, July, 8

Pribor, H. C. and Marcus, J. I.: Pregnancy Testing—The Real and the Ideal, March, 9

Pribor, H. C. and Morrell, G.: Albuterol: Laboratory Considerations, Aug., 15
Plasma Digoxin: Therapeutic Monitoring, June, 23

Pribor, H. C., Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Hall, S. B., Pace, M. C., and McCoy, M. T.: Bence Jone Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Pribor, H. C. and Scarry, R. L.: Rubella Testing in the Clinical Laboratory, May, 23

Pribor, H. C. and Senhauser, D. A.: The Pathologist in the '80s, Jan., 9

R

Ritzmann, S. E., Aguanno, J. J., Hall, S. B., Pace, M. C.,McCoy, M. T., and Pribor, H. C.: Bence Jones Proteins: Another Look, Sept., 17

Roberts, S. B., Yelton, D. E., and Scharff, M. D.: Hybridomas and Monoclonal Antibodies, Jan., 19

S

Scarry, R. L. and Pribor, H. C.: Rubella Testing in the Clinical Laboratory, May, 23

Scharff, M. D., Yelton, D. E., and Roberts, S. B.: Hybridomas and Monoclonal Antibodies, Jan., 19

Schneider, R. G., Hightower, B. J., and Barwick, R. C.: Laboratory Identification of the Hemoglobinopathies, Aug., 29

Seegers, W. H.: Antithrombin III: Function and Assay, March, 23

Senhauser, D. A. and Pribor, H. C.: The Pathologist in the 80s, Jan., 9

Skikne, B. S. and Cook, J. D.: Serum Ferritin in Iron—Status Evaluation, May, 31

Slaunwhite, D.: (Letter), Aug., 12

Specter, S. and Friedman, H.: Microbiology and Serology: Progress in Automation, Sept., 37

Stansell, M.J.: (Letter), June, 9

Steele, R.: (Letter), Sept., 13

Stryker, M. H. and Waldman, A. A.: Blood Components: Preparation and Quality Control, Feb., 43

V

Valenzuela, R. and Deodhar, S. D.: C-Reactive Protein: New Findings and Specific Applications, June, 47

W

Waldman, A. A. and Stryker, M. H.: Blood Components: Preparation and Quality Control, Feb., 43

Warnick, G. R. and Albers, J. J.: Lipoprotein Measurement in the Clinical Laboratory, Feb., 31

Waters, J. J.
Leadership Development, Aug., 61
The Maladaptive Personality, Feb., 18
The Maladaptive Personality: II, May, 53
The Small Community, Nov., 67

Wenz, B.: (Letter), Nov. 9

Westlake, G. E.: Microcomputers: Servants for Your Laboratory, Jan., 35

Williams, H.: (Letter), April, 9

Yelton, D. E., Roberts, S. B., and Scharff, M. D.: Hybridomas and Monoclonal Antibodies, Jan., 19

INDEX TO SUBJECTS: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT, 1981

A

abortion; spontaneous; and human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) beta-subunit levels; Nov., 49
acetylcholine; release of; inhibition by *C. botulinum* toxin; Aug., 55
acetylcholine receptor (AChR); assay for; in myasthenia gravis; July, 37
acid-citrate-dextrose (ACD); as anticoagulant; in blood component preparation; Feb., 49
acrodermatosis; zinc metabolism in; July, 24
adenosine monophosphate; cyclic (cAMP)
  in pharmacotherapy of asthma; Aug., 17
  role in thyroid hormone secretion; Nov., 55
agglutination
  latex; test for cryptococcal antigen; April, 38
  tube and slide; in pregnancy testing; March, 9
albuterol
  laboratory considerations; July, 15
  therapeutic monitoring of; July, 23
alcoholism;
  and brain atrophy; Nov., 25
  and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase levels; March, 17
alpha-1-antitrypsin; serum levels of; in inflammatory disease; June, 51
alpha-bungarotoxin (α-BuTx); in acetylcholine receptor assay in myasthenia gravis; July, 37
Amblyomma americanum (Lone Star tick); as vector of Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 30
amebiasis; detection by filter-paper blood-spot test; Feb., 55
amines; sympathomimetic; in treatment of asthma; Aug., 17
amylase; serum; assays for; in pancreatic disease; June, 33
amyloidosis; in differential diagnosis of multiple myeloma; March, 36
anemia
  iron-deficiency; and ferritin testing; May, 33
  sickle cell; laboratory identification of; Aug., 31
angioscope; flexible; June, 39
ankylosing spondylitis; association with HLA-B27 antigen; Sept., 46
antibiotics
  minimal inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of; automated determination; Sept., 39
  in treatment of Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 32
antibodies
  anti-acetylcholine receptor; in myasthenia gravis; July, 37
  anti-herpes virus; June, 69
  anti-HLA; in detection of HLA antigens; Sept., 47
  antinuclear (ANA); and macroLDemia; June, 37
  anti-rickettsial; in Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 33
  anti-rubella; assays for; May, 23
  antiviral; in multiple sclerosis; May, 37
  in filter-paper blood-spot testing for parasitic disease; Feb., 58
  to hepatitis B surface antigen; July, 9
  monoclonal; in monoclonal gammopathy; March, 34
  monoclonal; in T- and B-cell identification testing; May, 43
  monoclonal; technology and use of; Jan., 19
  monoclonal; to human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) beta subunit; Nov., 43
  to myelin basic protein (MBP); in multiple sclerosis; May, 37
  rubella; assays for; May, 23
  to T3, T4, and TSH receptor sites; self-generated; Nov., 58
  transplacental transfer of; in myasthenia gravis; July, 37
antibody; role of thyroid-stimulating immunoglobulin as; Nov., 55
anticoagulants; in blood component preparation; Feb., 49
antigens
  ABO, M, and N; in paternity testing; Nov., 31
  Australia; identity with hepatitis B surface antigen; July, 8
  blood group; identification with monoclonal antibodies; Jan., 20
  Campylobacter fetus; June, 60
  cell surface; of T and B lymphocytes; May, 43
  common acute lymphoblastic leukemia; May, 49
  fungal; rapid identification of; April, 39
  hepatitis B surface (HB_sAg); July, 8
  hepatitis B surface (HB_sAg); vaccine preparation through DNA cloning; Nov., 29
  histocompatibility (HLA-DR); in diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukemia; May, 49
  HLA; in diagnostic medicine; Sept., 45
  HLA; disease associations of; Sept., 45
  HLA; in identifying neonates in hospital nursery/disputed parentage cases; Nov., 32
  HLA; in paternity testing, Nov., 30
  HLA; matching of; and survival of transplanted kidneys; Nov., 31
  OX19 and OX2; of *Proteus*; in Weil-Felix test for Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 32
  Rickettsia ricketsii; in microimmunofluorescence test for Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 32
antisera
  anti-C-reactive protein; June, 49
  to B- and T-cell surface antigens; May, 43
  fluorescein-conjugated; in immunoelectrophoretic identification of B lymphocytes; May, 47
antithrombin III (At-III); function and assay; March, 23
anti-TIg; in electrophoretic assays for multiple myeloma; March, 38
apolipoproteins
  A1; radioimmunoassay for; Sept., 35
  function of; Feb., 32; Sept., 27
  properties; in lipoprotein structure; Feb., 32
arthritis; rheumatoid; association with HLA-Dw4 and DR4 antigens; Sept., 48
Aspergillus
  as agent of opportunistic respiratory infection; identification; July, 47
  species; rapid identification of; April, 39
assay
  for acetylcholine receptor (AChR) in myasthenia gravis; July, 37
  agglutination; for C-reactive protein; June, 49
  bio-; for *Clostridium botulinum* toxin; Aug., 58
  bio-; for long-acting thyroid stimulator (LATS); Nov., 53
  cytotoxicity; for T- and B-cell identification; May, 43
  diazotization-based; for bilirubin; Oct., 15
  direct; for lipoprotein cholesterol; Feb., 33
  electrophoretic; for lipoprotein cholesterol; Feb., 33; Sept., 34
  enzymatic; for amylase in serum; June, 35
  enzymatic; for antithrombin III; March, 24
  enzymatic; for lipoprotein cholesterol; Feb., 33
  filter-paper blood-spot; for parasitic disease; Feb., 58
  fluorescent antibody (FA); for C-reactive protein; June, 49
  fluorescent antibody; in lymphocyte identification testing; May, 49
  fluorometric, for zinc protoporphyrin; in lead poisoning; Jan., 28
  for T and B lymphocytes; May, 41
  hemagglutination inhibition (HAI); for measles; by filter-paper blood-spot method; Feb., 55
  hemolysis-in-gel (HIG); for rubella antibodies; May, 26
  immuno-; in microbiology/serology; Sept., 39
  immunofluorescent; for herpes simplex viruses; June, 69
  immunofluorescent; for rubella antibody; comparison with hemagglutination inhibition; May, 25
  immunofluorescent; for T-and B-cell identification; May, 43
  immunofluorescent; in microbiology/serology; Sept., 39
  immunonephelometric; for apolipoproteins; Feb., 38
  indirect; for lipoprotein cholesterol; Feb., 33
  lipoprotein; Feb., 31; Sept., 29
  lipoprotein cholesterol; Feb., 31
  microimmunofluorescence (micro-IF); for antibodies in Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 32
  nephelometric; in automation of microbiology/serology; Sept., 40
  passive hemagglutination (PHA); for rubella antibodies; May, 25
  radial immunodiffusion; for apolipoprotein A1; Sept., 35
  radioreceptor; in pregnancy/ectopic pregnancy; Feb., 27
  rubella-antibody-specific; May, 25
  spectrophotometric; for bilirubin; Oct., 16
asthma; pharmacotherapy of; Aug., 15
atherosclerosis; and HDL-cholesterol levels; Sept., 25
automation
  and pathology; Jan., 10
  as factor in health screening; Feb., 24
  blood bank; in programmed blood distribution system; Oct., 50
  future types of; in clinical laboratory medicine; April, 47
  in microbiology and serology; progress of; Sept., 37
  microbiologic; in fungus disease diagnosis; April, 42
  microbiologic; future types of in clinical laboratory; April, 48

continued on page 48

INDEX TO SUBJECTS: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT, 1981

B

bacteremia; *Campylobacter fetus*; June, 58
Bayesian analysis; in disease associations of HLA; Sept., 50
beads; plastic; in immunoassay systems; Sept., 40
bilirubin
serum; assay methods; Oct., 11
serum; levels in Reye syndrome; March, 42
biopsy; liver; in diagnosis of Reye syndrome; March, 42, 45
Blastomyces dermatitidis; as agent of opportunistic respiratory infection; identification; July, 45
blood
components; preparation and quality control; Feb., 43
distribution; to hospitals and clinics; programmed system for; Oct., 41
fractionation techniques; Feb., 44
blood-clot formation; as defense mechanism of tumors; Nov., 29
blood urea nitrogen (BUN); levels in Reye syndrome; March, 44
botulism; infant; Aug., 53

C

calcium; serum; in diagnostic screening; Feb., 24
Campylobacter fetus; laboratory identification of; June, 55
campylobacteriosis; laboratory identification of; June, 55
cancer
alcoholic beverages as risk factor in, Nov., 25
hematologic; May, 49
opportunistic respiratory infection in; July, 44
prostate; acid phosphatase assays in; Aug., 45
Candida
as agent of opportunistic respiratory infection; identification; July, 47
species; rapid identification of; April, 39
carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA); precautions; federal; in interpreting results (Letter); Feb., 19
carcinoma; nasopharyngeal; association with HLA-Bw46 antigen; Sept., 46
carrageenan; as agar substitute; June, 42
catechol ortho-methyl transferase (COMT); in pharmacotherapy of asthma; Aug., 20
cell culture; in hybridoma technology; Jan., 21
cell lines; in monoclonal antibody production; Jan., 22
cells; null; in B- and T-lymphocyte identification; May, 43, 49
centrifugation
density-gradient; in lipoprotein assay; Feb., 32
density-gradient; in lymphocyte assays; May, 46
in preparation of blood components; Feb., 44
cholesterol
high-density lipoprotein (HDL); assays for; Feb., 31; Sept., 30
high-density lipoprotein; as factor in coronary disease risk; Feb., 31; Sept., 26
low-density lipoprotein (LDL); as factor in coronary disease risk; Feb., 31; Sept., 25
plasma; and coronary disease risk; Sept., 25
plasma; total; by age and sex; and coronary disease risk; Feb., 37
serum; in diagnostic screening; Feb., 24
chopped meat-glucose-starch medium (CMGS); in culture of *Clostridium botulinum*; Aug., 56

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INDEX TO SUBJECTS: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT, 1981

chromatography
column; for purifying anti-acetylcholine receptor antibody in myasthenia gravis; July, 39
gas; for digoxin metabolites; June, 24
gas; in cholesterol ester assays; Feb., 33
gas; with mass spectroscopy; in future of laboratory medicine; April, 47
gas-liquid; with mass spectrometry; in therapeutic monitoring of albuterol; Aug., 24
high performance liquid (HPLC); as basis for automated diagnostic testing; April, 47
HPLC; in bilirubin assay; Oct., 16
HPLC; in therapeutic monitoring of albuterol; Aug., 24
chromium; importance in glucose metabolism; July, 23
cirrhosis; alcoholic; and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase testing; March, 18
citrate-phosphate-dextrose (CPD); as anticoagulant; in blood-component preparation; Feb., 49
Clostridium botulinum; in infant botulism; identification; Aug., 53
coagulation; blood; function of antithrombin III in; March, 23
Coccidioides; as agent of opportunistic respiratory infection; identification; July, 46
column separation
of acetylcholine receptor antibodies in myasthenia gravis; July, 39
of amylase in serum; June, 33, 35
common acute lymphoblastic leukemia antigen (CALLA); May, 49
complement components C2, C3, C4; gene loci of; linkage to HLA loci; Sept., 47
complement fixation (CF) test
for herpes simplex virus; June, 69
in diagnosis of Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 33
complete blood count (CBC); as critical diagnostic decision parameter in laboratory medicine; Oct., 26
computer-aided-instruction (CAI); April, 24
computers
evolution of; in history of technology; Nov., 35
in automated microbiologic instruments; Sept., 39
in clinical laboratory; uses for; Jan., 35
in future of clinical laboratory medicine; April, 47, 48
micro-; in clinical laboratory; April, 19
in programmed blood distribution systems (PBDS); Oct., 47
concanavalin A; binding to acetylcholine receptor; in myasthenia gravis; July, 38
copper; metabolism of; in Menkes disease; July, 24
coronary disease, risk; and lipoprotein levels; Feb., 31
cortisol; serum; as critical diagnostic decision parameter in laboratory medicine; Oct., 22
cost/benefit analyses in technology transfer; Nov., 41
costs
containment policies; effect on future of clinical laboratory; April, 46
health care delivery (Letter); June, 9
health care; effect of technology on; Nov., 41
creatinine phosphokinase (CPK); levels in Reye syndrome; isoenzyme levels in Reye syndrome; March, 44
C-reactive protein; as disease indicator; June, 47
cryoprecipitates; preparation from whole blood; Feb., 46
Cryptococcus; as agent of opportunistic respiratory infection; identification; July, 45
Cryptococcus neoformans; rapid identification of; April, 39
culdocentesis; in differential diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy; Nov., 49
culture
cell; for herpes simplex virus; June, 67
cell; in hybridoma technology; Jan., 21
mixed lymphocyte (MLC); in detection of HLA-D antigens; Sept., 48
techniques; for *Campylobacter fetus*; June, 58
techniques; for *Clostridium botulinum* in infant botulism; Aug., 56
cytomegalovirus; in diagnosis of herpes simplex virus infection; June, 69
cytopathology; of opportunistic respiratory infection; July, 43

D

data; collection and analysis; computerized; in future of clinical laboratory medicine; April, 47
decisions; critical diagnostic; in laboratory medicine; Oct., 21
dehyratase; δ-aminolevulinic acid (ALA-D); inhibition by lead; Jan., 28
densitometric scanning
in electrophoresis of lipoprotein cholesterol; Sept., 34
in electrophoretic assays for abnormal hemoglobins; Aug., 32
densitometry; computerized; in future of clinical laboratory; April, 48
deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA); mitochondrial; maternal transmission of; June, 39
Dermacentor andersoni (wood tick); as vector of Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 29
Dermacentor occidentalis (Pacific Coast tick); as vector of Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 30
Dermacentor variabilis; as vector of Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 30
diabetes mellitus; juvenile; association with HLA-DR3 and DR4 antigens; Sept., 48
diagnoses; laboratory; critical decisions in; Oct., 21
diagnostic testing; future changes in; April, 45
diet; effects of mineral deficiencies in; July, 23
digoxin; plasma; therapeutic monitoring of; June, 23
3, 4-dihydroxyphenylglycol (DOPEG); blood levels; in depression; June, 39
disease
autoimmune; association with HLA-B8 and DR3 antigens; Sept., 50
autoimmune; lymphocyte identification testing in; May, 52
cardiovascular; and high-density lipoprotein levels; Feb., 31
cardiovascular; and lipoprotein cholesterol levels; Feb., 31; Sept., 25
coronary; and HDL-cholesterol levels; Feb., 31; Sept., 25
deficiency; importance of trace chemical elements in; July, 24
fungal; rapid diagnostic methods for; April, 37
gastrointestinal; associations with HLA-B8 antigen; Sept., 47
Graves'; thyroid stimulating immunoglobulins in; Nov., 53
heavy- and light-chain; in differential diagnosis of multiple myeloma; March, 37
immunodeficiency; lymphocyte identification assays in; May, 49
infectious; and splenic function; May, 9
inflammatory; C-reactive protein levels in; June, 51
inflammatory bowel (IBD); frequency of HLA-B27 antigen in; Sept., 46
light chain; Sept., 18
Menkes; copper metabolism in; July, 24
pancreatic; serum amylase levels as indicators of; June, 33
Reiter's; association with HLA-B27 antigen; Sept., 47
specific; associations with HLA antigens; Sept., 45
venereal; caused by herpes simplex virus; June, 66
diseases; specific; associations with HLA antigens; Sept., 45
distributed processors; and laboratory computers; Jan., 36
drugs
plasma concentrations of; and therapeutic drug monitoring; April, 32
therapeutic; monitoring (TDM); of bronchodilating drugs; Aug., 15
therapeutic; monitoring (TDM); guidelines in; April, 31

E

ectopic pregnancy
human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) beta-subunit RIA in; Nov., 43
human chorionic gonadotropin levels in; Feb., 27
incidence; in United States; Feb., 28
Ehrlich diazo reagent; in bilirubin assay; Oct., 15
electron microscopy; for identification of herpes simplex viruses; June, 69
electrophoresis
agar gel: for immunoglobulins in multiple sclerosis; May, 37
cellulose acetate (globin electrophoresis); for abnormal hemoglobins; May, 33, 35
cellulose acetate; for IgG; in multiple sclerosis; May, 38
citrate agar; for abnormal hemoglobins; Aug., 33
counterimmuno- (CIEP); for prostatic acid phosphatase; Aug., 51
immuno-; for apolipoprotein A1; Sept., 35
immuno-; for Bence Jones proteins; Sept., 17
immuno- (IEP); in B-lymphocyte identification; May, 47
immuno-; for immunoglobulins in monoclonal gammopathies; Sept., 17
immuno-; in diagnosis of monoclonal gammopathies; March, 36
in lipoprotein assays; Feb., 32; Sept., 29
techniques; in diagnosis of monoclonal gammopathies; March, 35

INDEX TO SUBJECTS: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT, 1981

elements; chemical; trace quantities; in human physiology; July, 21
enzyme-linked immunoassay (ELISA)
for rickettsial disease; Oct., 37
use of; in monoclonal antibody production; Jan., 22
enzyme multiplied immunoassay technique (EMIT); in therapeutic drug monitoring; April, 31
enzymes; mitochondrial; dysfunction in Reye syndrome; March, 44
erythrocyte sensitizing substance (ESS); of *Rickettsia rickettsii;* Oct., 33
erythrocytes
microscopic examination; in evaluating splenic function; May, 9
type-O; use in rubella hemagglutination inhibition assay; May, 25
external cardiac assist (ECA); June, 42

F

factor VIII
fresh-frozen plasma as source of; Feb., 44
high-yield collection of; Nov., 28
factor Xa; inactivation by antithrombin III; March, 25
factors; clotting; disturbance of in Reye syndrome; March, 42
false-negative results
in acetylcholine receptor assay in myasthenia gravis; July, 40
in assays for Bence Jones proteins; Sept., 17
in radioimmunoassay for prostatic acid phosphatase; Aug., 44
false-positive results
in acetylcholine receptor assay in myasthenia gravis; July, 41
in radioimmunoassay for prostatic acid phosphatase; Aug., 49
ferritin; serum; as indicator of body iron status; May, 31
fluorescent antibody test
for pathogenic fungi; April, 38
indirect (IFA); for rickettsial disease; in Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 33
in Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 32
fluorometry; in screening for lead poisoning; Jan., 29
fluorophotometry; in retinal disease; June, 43
free thyroxine index (FTI); in diagnostic screening; Feb., 24
fungi
as agents of opportunistic respiratory infection; July, 45
disease causing; rapid identification of; April, 31
disease causing; automated detection of; April, 42

G

gamma glutamyl transpeptidase (GGTP); as indicator of alcoholic liver disease; assay for; March, 18
gammopathies; monoclonal Bence Jones proteins in; Sept., 17
laboratory diagnosis; March, 30
genes; allelic; of HLA loci; Sept., 45
gentamicin; serum; as critical diagnostic decision parameter in laboratory medicine; Oct., 22
Geotrichum; as agent of opportunistic respiratory infection; identification; July, 47
globin chains; of hemoglobin; structural abnormalities in; Aug., 29
glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G-6-PD); in immunoglobulin-complexed enzyme disorders; June, 37
glucose tolerance factor (GTF); chromium in; July, 23
glucose tolerance test; as critical diagnostic decision parameter in laboratory medicine; Oct., 23
gluten-sensitive enteropathy; association with HLA-DR3 and Dw3 antigens; Sept., 48
Graves' disease; thyroid-stimulating immunoglobulins (TSI) in; Nov., 53

H

hemagglutination
indirect; assay for Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 33
indirect; in filter-paper blood-spot testing for malaria; Feb., 18
indirect; test for campylobacteriosis; June, 58
indirect; test for herpes simplex virus infection; June, 69
inhibition (HAI) testing; for rubella antibodies; May, 23
hematocrit; as critical diagnostic decision parameter in laboratory medicine; Oct., 24
hematofluorometer; in detection of lead poisoning; Jan., 29
hemochromatosis; idiopathic; and ferritin testing; May, 35
hemoglobin
biosynthesis; toxic effects of lead on; Jan., 28
ZPP-containing; in lead poisoning; Jan., 28
hemoglobinopathies; laboratory identification of; Aug., 29
hemophilia; blood components in treatment of; Feb., 44
heparin; as inhibitor of thrombin in blood clotting; March, 24
hepatitis
alcoholic; and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase testing; March, 18
diagnostic testing for; July, 8
type B; coexistence of surface antigen and antibody in (Letter); Nov., 9
types of; July, 8
hereditary persistence of fetal hemoglobin (HPFH); Aug., 38
herpes simplex virus (HSV); types 1 and 2; identification of; June, 67
high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)
as basis for automated diagnostic testing; April, 47
in therapeutic drug monitoring; April, 31
The Histology of Borderline Cancer (Park); (Book review); June, 71
Histoplasma; as agent of opportunistic respiratory infection; identification; July, 46
human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG)
assays; in pregnancy testing; March, 9
beta subunit; radioimmunoassay for; in ectopic pregnancy; Feb., 27; Nov., 43
molecular weight of (Letter); June, 9
hybridomas
in monoclonal antibody production; Jan., 20
technology of; Jan., 20
hyperbilirubinemia; disease associations of; Oct., 11
hyperlipoproteinemia; lipoprotein assays in; Feb., 36
hypertension; effect on tolerance to pain; June, 39
hyperthyroidism; effects of serum digoxin levels in; June, 25
hypertriglyceridemia
familial; and HDL cholesterol levels; Feb., 36
in cardiovascular disease risk; Feb., 36
hypogammaglobulinemia; inverse association with Bence Jones proteins; Sept., 19

I

immunity; cell mediated; test for; in herpes simplex virus infection; June, 70
immunoassays
and hybridoma technology; Jan., 19
enzyme-linked; in microbiology/serology; Sept., 40
fluorescent; in microbiology/serology; Sept., 40
monoclonal antibodies in; Jan., 20, 23
immunodiffusion
electro-; assay for IgG in multiple sclerosis; May, 38
radial (RID); assay for IgG in multiple sclerosis; May, 38
immunofluorescence; in diagnosis of monoclonal gammopathies; March, 36
immunoglobulin-complexed-enzyme (ICE) disorders; and macroamylasemia; June, 37
immunoglobulins
IgG; as antibodies in myasthenia gravis; July, 37
IgG; in multiple sclerosis; May, 37
IgG; long-acting thyroid stimulator; Nov., 54
IgG; on surfaces of B-lymphocytes; May, 43
IgG and IgA; complex formation with serum amylase; June, 37
IgG, IgD, IgM, IgA, kappa, and lambda; antisera to; in B-lymphocyte identification; May, 47
IgM; rubella specific; testing for; May, 23
in monoclonal gammopathies; assays for; Sept. 17
monoclonal; in monoclonal gammopathies; March, 34
overproduction; in monoclonal gammopathies; March, 30
polyvalent; in microimmunofluorescence test for Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 33
produced by B-lymphocytes; in lymphocyte identification testing; May, 48
produced by myeloma cells; in hybridoma technology; Jan., 22
structure and function; March, 30
thyroid stimulating (TSI); in Graves' disease and Hashimoto's thyroiditis; Nov., 56
impedence monitoring; of microbial growth; Sept., 38
infection; opportunistic respiratory; cytopathology of; July, 43
inflammatory bowel disease (IBD); frequency of HLA-B27 antigen in; Sept., 46
interfacing equipment; for microcomputers and laboratory instruments; Jan., 36
iron; body; and serum ferritin levels; May, 31
isoelectric focusing (IEF); for protein separation; in multiple sclerosis; May, 39

INDEX TO SUBJECTS: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT, 1981

J

jaundice; neonatal; and bilirubin metabolism; Oct., 11

K

Klebsiella; components; cross-reactivity with HLA-B27 antigens; Sept., 48

L

laboratory
clinical; in coming decade; April,46
critical diagnostic decisions in; Oct., 21
in growing nations (Letter); April, 9
in small communities; Nov., 67
management; guidelines for technology transfer; Nov., 41
personnel; leadership development programs for; Aug., 61
personnel; monitoring of; May, 53
personnel; personality as factor in; Feb., 18; May, 53
laboratory; transfer of technology to; Nov., 35
1980 survey of Educational Coordinators in; results; Aug., 61
uses of microcomputers in; Jan., 35
laboratory manual; direct preparation by laboratory (Letter); Aug., 12
lactic dehydrogenase (LDH); levels in Reye syndrome; March, 44
lasers; safety guide for use of; June, 43
latex agglutination test; for anti-*Rickettsia rickettsii* antibodies in Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 37
LATS protector; in blockade of long-acting thyroid stimulator effect; Nov., 56
lead; effects on hemoglobin synthesis; Jan., 28
lead poisoning
epidemiology of in United States; Jan., 25, 30
laboratory tests for; Jan., 28
symptoms; Jan., 28
Legionnaire's disease bacterium (LDB); and algal growth factors; June, 39
leukemia
acute lymphoblastic (ALL); May, 49
acute myeloid; Phi bodies in (Letter); Sept., 13
chronic lymphocytic (CLL); Bence Jones proteins in; Sept., 18
chronic lymphocytic; B-lymphocyte assays in identification of; May, 49
leukocyte concentrates; preparation from whole blood; Feb., 49
linkage; genetic; and specific diseases; Sept., 45
lipid; total; in diagnostic screening; Feb., 24
lipoproteins
assays for; Feb., 31; Sept., 25
high- and low-density; in coronary disease risk; Feb., 31; Sept., 25
high-density; subfractions of; Sept., 27
major types and properties; Feb., 32
lipoprotein lipase; in hydrolysis of very-low-density lipoproteins; Sept., 27
long-acting thyroid stimulator (LATS); assay for; Nov., 53
luteinizing hormone (LH)
chromatographic separation from human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG); Nov., 47
interference in the hCG radioimmunoassays for pregnancy; March, 11
interference in hCG radioreceptor assays for ectopic pregnancy; Feb., 28
lymphocyte blastogenesis studies; in herpes simplex virus infection; June, 70
lymphocyte cytotoxicity test; for HLA antigens; Nov., 30
lymphocytes
B; assays for; May, 41
B; immunoglobulin production by; in monoclonal gammopathy; March, 34
B; in monoclonal gammopathy; March, 31
B; origins of; May, 41
T; assays for; May, 41
T; in multiple sclerosis; May, 37
T; subset identification with monoclonal antibodies; Jan., 24
lymphoma
B-cell; laboratory diagnosis; March, 30
non-Hodgkin's; T- and B-lymphocyte assays in diagnosis of; May, 51

M

macroamylasemia; June, 33
magnetic particles; separations done with; in radioimmunoassays; Sept., 39
major histocompatibility complex (MHC)
and HLA system; Nov., 31
disease linkage of; and HLA loci; Sept., 47
malaria; detection by filter-paper blood-spot test; Feb., 55
management systems; for pathology; Jan., 10
markers; lymphocyte; in T- and B-lymphocyte identification; May, 43
measles; detection of; by filter-paper blood-spot testing; Feb., 55
Medicare/Medicaid; and pathology; Jan., 9
meningitis; *Campylobacter fetus*; June, 55
Menkes disease; copper metabolism in; July, 24
metabolism
digoxin; June, 24
drug; and therapeutic drug monitoring; April, 34
metabolites; fungal; rapid detection tests for; April, 39
methemoglobin (hemoglobin M); identification; Aug., 37
microbiology
automated; future types of; April, 48
automation in; Sept., 37
automation in; for fungus disease diagnosis; April, 42
microcomputers
in preparation of hepatitis diagnostic profile; July, 11
types of and costs; Jan., 36
uses in clinical laboratory; Jan., 35
micronutrients; essential human; July, 21
microprocessors; in pathology; Jan., 10
microscopy
heavy ion; Nov., 25
phase contrast; for erythrocyte examination in evaluating splenic function; May, 9
phase-contrast; in testing for HLA antigens; Nov., 30
moire phototopography; in measurement of chest deformity; June, 42
molybdenum; in oxidase enzyme function; July, 23
monitoring
disease; as reason for laboratory testing; April, 46
of therapeutic drugs (TDM); April, 31
of therapeutic drugs; digoxin plasma levels; June, 23
of therapeutic drugs; role in critical decisions in laboratory medicine; Oct., 23
monoamine oxidase; in pharmacotherapy of asthma; Aug., 20
monoclonal antibodies
production by hybridoma technology; Jan., 20
uses for; Jan., 20, 23
multiple sclerosis (MS); laboratory identification of; May, 36
myasthenia gravis (MG); acetylcholine receptor assay in; July, 37
myelin basic protein (MBP); antibodies to; in multiple sclerosis; May, 37
myeloma
multiple; Bence Jones proteins in; Sept., 17
multiple; and hybridoma technology; Jan., 20
plasma cell; diagnosis; March, 30

N

nephelometry
in measurement of C-reactive protein; June, 49
laser; automated; in microbiology; Sept., 39
laser; for IgG in multiple sclerosis; May, 38
nonlinkage mechanisms; in association of diseases and HLA; Sept., 48
nutrition; importance of trace chemical elements in; July, 21

O

obesity; surgical control of; Nov., 25
Ouchterlony technique; for Bence Jones proteins; Sept., 17

P

parasites; diseases caused by; laboratory diagnosis by filter-paper blood-spot test; Feb., 55
pathologist
role of; in critical decisions in laboratory medicine; Oct., 23
role of; in 1980s; Jan., 9
pathology
interpretive reporting in; value of (Letter); June, 9
socioeconomic and government effects on; Jan., 9
Pediatric Clinical Chemistry, 2nd Ed. (Meites); (Book review); June, 73
personality; as factor in laboratory function; Feb., 18; May, 53
personnel; laboratory; work/interpersonal relationships in small communities; Nov., 67
phage typing; of *Campylobacter fetus* subspecies; June, 60
pharmacology; in treatment asthma; Aug., 15
phenol oxidase test; for *Cryptococcus neoformans*; April, 42
Phi bodies in acute myeloid leukemia (Letter); Sept., 13
phosphatase
acid; prostatic (PAP); assays compared; Aug., 45
alkaline; levels; and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase levels in liver disease; March, 18

INDEX TO SUBJECTS: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT, 1981

alkaline; levels in Reye syndrome; March, 44
photosensitivity; drug-induced; Nov., 25
plasma
fresh-frozen; as source of blood components; Feb., 44
platelet poor (PPP); preparation from whole blood; Feb., 44
platelet count; as critical diagnostic decision parameter in laboratory medicine; Oct., 24
platelets
as carriers of antithrombin III; March, 27
plasma preparations of; from whole blood; Feb., 44
Pneumocystis carinii; as agent of opportunistic respiratory infection; identification; July, 48
potassium; serum levels; and digoxin effects on heart; June, 25
Practical Applications of Prostaglandins and Their Synthesis Inhibitors (Karim); (Book review); June, 72
precipitation methods; for high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; Sept., 30; Feb., 32
pregnancy
ectopic; human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) levels in; Nov., 43
tests for; March, 9
profiles
automated biochemical; cost-effectiveness and value of; Feb., 23
diagnostic; in hepatitis; July, 11
programmed blood distribution system (PBDS); Oct., 41
programming; computer; languages used in laboratory; April, 20
prostaglandins; in asthma; Aug., 16
prostatic acid phosphatase; comparison of assays for; Aug., 45
protamine; in reversing heparin-induced anticoagulation; March, 24
protein
Bence Jones; identification methods for; Sept., 17
Bence Jones; in monoclonal gammopathies; March, 35, 36
CII; as activator of lipoprotein lipase; Sept., 27
C-reactive; levels in inflammatory disease; June, 47
C-reactive; structure; June, 48
lipid-carrying; Feb., 31; Sept., 25
M; in monoclonal gammopathies; Sept., 18
myelin basic; antibodies to; in multiple sclerosis; May, 37
prothrombin; concentration and function in blood clotting; March, 23
prothrombin time; in Reye syndrome; March, 42
protoporphyrin
free erythrocyte (FEP); and ferritin testing; May, 33
free erythrocyte; in screening for lead poisoning; Jan., 29
in lead poisoning; Jan., 28
zinc (ZPP); fluorometric assay for; in lead poisoning; Jan., 29

Q

quality control; centrifuge; in blood component preparation; Feb., 44

R

radioimmunoassay (RIA)
automated; in microbiology; Sept., 39
for acetylcholine receptor in myasthenia gravis; July, 38
for anti-hepatitis A antibody; July, 9
for apolipoprotein-A1; Sept., 35
for C-reactive protein; June, 51
for digoxin in plasma; June, 23
for fungal antigens; April, 39
for hepatitis B core antibody; July, 9
for hepatitis e-antigen and antibody; July, 9
for hepatitis B surface antigen; July, 9
for hCG; in pregnancy testing; March, 11
for hCG beta-subunit; in ectopic pregnancy; Feb., 27; Nov., 43
for myelin basic protein; in multiple sclerosis; May, 37
for prostatic acid phosphatase; Aug., 47
magnetic separations in; Sept., 39
for tuftsin (L-threonyl-L-lysyl-L-prolyl-L-arginine); in splenic function; May, 12
screening; use in monoclonal antibody production; Jan., 22
radioisotopic detection systems; automated; in microbiology; Sept., 38
radioreceptor assay (RRA)
in pregnancy testing; March, 11
in testing for ectopic pregnancy; Feb., 27
ratio
amylase clearance/creatinine clearance; in pancreatitis; June, 33
IgG/albumin; in multiple sclerosis; May, 37
lipid cholesterol; as risk predictor of cardiovascular disease; Feb., 37
receptors
acetylcholine (AChR); assay for; in myasthenia gravis; July, 37
beta$_2$-; role in asthma; Aug., 17
hormone; HLA interference with; Sept., 48
low-density lipoprotein; Sept., 27
red blood cells; vacuolated; in evaluating splenic function; May, 9
regulations; laboratory; HEW-proposed; Aug., 62
reimbursement; third-party; and pathology; Jan., 9
relative risk; in disease associations with human lymphocyte antigens (HLA); Sept., 45
reports; interpretive; done by microcomputer; April, 24
Reye syndrome; diagnosis; March, 41
Rickettsia rickettsii; in Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 29
Rocky Mountain spotted fever; epidemiology and diagnosis; Oct., 29
rosette formation; in B-lymphocyte identification; May, 43
RS-232 interface; in laboratory microcomputer technology; Jan., 36
rubella (German measles); diagnostic testing for; May, 23

S

schistosomiasis; filter-paper blood-spot test for; Feb., 55
schizophrenia; schizotypal ("borderline"); Nov., 28
screening
for hemoglobinopathies in newborns; Aug., 42
mass; as reason for diagnostic testing; April, 46
serum; multiphasic; value of; Feb., 23
selenium; as essential trace element; July, 31
sequential prevalence augmentation method; in diagnosis of HLA-associated disease; Sept., 50
serology
automation in; Sept., 37
in diagnosis of herpes simplex virus infection; June, 69
in diagnosis of parasitic disease by filter-paper blood-spot test; Feb., 55
serum glutamic oxalacetic transaminase (SGOT)
levels; and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase levels in alcoholic liver disease; March, 18
levels; in Reye syndrome; March, 42
serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (SGPT)
levels; and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase levels in alcoholic liver disease; March, 18
levels; in Reye syndrome; March, 42
sialic acid; varying content in human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) reagents; Nov., 45
sickle cell disease
and splenic function; May, 9
vacuolated red blood cell assays in; May, 9
sickle cell trait (HbAS); identification; Aug., 31
slow-reacting substance of anaphylaxis (SRS-A); in asthma; Aug., 16
sodium; serum; as critical decision parameter in laboratory medicine; Oct., 21
spectrometry; atomic absorption; in trace element assays; July, 34
spectrophotometers; evolution of; Nov., 36
spectroscopy; in future of clinical laboratory; April, 47
spleen; functional evaluation; May, 9
stability testing; of hemoglobin; in hemoglobinopathies; Aug., 38
stains
electrophoretic; for proteins in multiple sclerosis; May, 38
for fungi in opportunistic respiratory infection; July, 45
in fungus disease identification; April, 37
Gomori-methenamine silver (GMS); in fungal detection; April, 38
periodic-acid-Schiff (PAS); in fungal detection; April, 38
Staphylococcus aureus; finding of; as critical diagnostic decision factor; Oct., 22
statistical methods; in laboratory data analysis; computerized; April, 20
stress; numerical rating of; June, 43
Strongyloides stercoralis; as agent of opportunistic respiratory infection; identification; July, 48
substitutions; amino acid; in globin chains of hemoglobin; Aug., 29
systemic lupus erythematosus
and high fat diet; June, 42
association with HLA-DR antigens; Sept., 48

T

technologies
factors determining success or failure of; Nov., 36
new; characteristics of; Nov.,

INDEX TO SUBJECTS: LABORATORY MANAGEMENT, 1981

36
technology
human factors in; Nov., 37
transfer to clinical laboratories; Nov., 35
testing
antibiotic susceptibility; automated; Sept., 38
diagnostic; future changes in; April, 45
laboratory; fees for costs of; as governed by technology; Nov., 41
laboratory; reasons for ordering; April, 46
thalassemias; laboratory identification of; Aug., 31
therapeutic drug monitoring; April, 31
thin-layer isoelectric focusing; in detection of hemoglobinopathies; Aug., 43
thrombin; and antithrombin III; in blood clotting; March, 23
thrombocytopenia; blood components in treatment of; Feb., 44
thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH); displacement by long-acting thyroid stimulator; Nov., 55
thyroxine (T4)
depletion of colloid stores in antithyroid drug therapy Nov., 58
serum; as critical decision parameter in laboratory medicine; Oct., 21
toxins; *Clostridium botulinum*; types and effects on gastrointestinal tract; Aug., 54
toxoplasmosis
detection by filter-paper blood-spot test; Feb., 55
proposed screening program for; June, 43
trace elements; in human physiology; July, 21
transaminase; serum glutamic oxalacetic (SGOT) and serum glutamic pyruvic (SGPT); in hepatitis C; July, 9
transferase; terminal deoxynucleotidyl TdT; in diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukemia; May, 49
triglycerides
measurement; in evaluating cardiovascular disease risk; Feb., 36
plasma; in lipoprotein cholesterol assays; Sept., 34; Feb., 34
triiodothyronine (T3); depletion of colloid stores in antithyroid drug therapy; Nov., 58
trypanosomiasis; filter-paper blood-spot test for; Feb., 55
tuftsin; radioimmunoassay for; in evaluating splenic function; May, 9
2, 4, 5-T; bacterial degradation of; Nov., 29

U

ultracentrifugation; in lipoprotein assays; Feb., 32; Sept., 29
ultrasound; diagnostic; in differential diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy; Nov., 47
Urine Sediment Examination (Schumann); (Book review); June, 72
vaccine; for Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 30
van den Bergh reaction; in bilirubin assay; Oct., 15
variation; coefficient of; in HDL cholesterol assay; Feb., 34
virus
hepatitis types A and B; structural characteristics of; July, 8
herpes simplex; identification of; June, 63
vitamin B_{12}; cobalt sources of; July, 12

W

Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia
Bence Jones proteins in; Sept., 17
diagnosis; March, 30
Weil-Felix test; in Rocky Mountain spotted fever; Oct., 32

Y

yeasts; disease-causing; rapid identification tests for; April, 37

Z

zinc; metabolism of; in acrodermatosis; July 24
zinc protoporphyrin; in lead poisoning; Jan., 29

BOOK REVIEW

Ackerman's Surgical Pathology, Sixth Edition. Edited by Juan Rosai. C. V. Mosby, St. Louis, Toronto, London, 1981.

In its earlier editions, *Ackerman's Surgical Pathology* always inspired ambivalence. Although often a useful reference—and especially valuable for its excellent bibliography—much of its descriptive material has been maddeningly brief.

The new, sixth edition is the first to be entirely edited by Juan Rosai. It is good to report that he has done much to improve the volume.

The basic outline of the book is the same as in earlier editions, although it has grown to two volumes; the chapters follow in almost identical order, with the exception that the second chapter on ultrastructure has been replaced by one on gross techniques. This seems to be a useful substitution, and is supplemented in the book's appendix by specific directions for the dissection of major organs. There is a new chapter on bone marrow by Richard Bruning, the heart is now included in the chapter on the vascular system, and information on skeletal muscle has been added to the discussion of the nervous system. Various collaborators have also participated in sections on the liver, kidney, and mandibular-maxillary pathology.

The text in many chapters of the book is largely unaltered, although Rosai has inserted numerous small changes that clarify the text, bring it up to date, and expanding it in areas where previous editions were too brief. In the sixth edition, for example, the chapter on the thyroid is very similar to that in the fifth edition; the illustrations are largely unchanged. Fibrosarcoma has been dropped from the tumor classification (although it remains in the table of thyroid tumors). On the other hand, the bibliography has been extensively updated, with text changes to match. About a third of the references are new since the previous edition—a proportion which seems to hold for all of the updated chapters.

A number of recent advances in surgical pathology are included in the text. For instance, the section on melanomas includes mention of Clark levels and microstagin, which were absent in previous editions. The chapter on the gastrointestinal tract shows the pattern of small-bowel mucosa under the dissecting microscope, as an aid in the diagnosis of malabsorptive disease. Needle aspiration of thyroid nodules is mentioned, but Rosai has a negative attitude toward this procedure.

The chapter on lymphoma—one of the most rapidly changing areas in surgical pathology—is of special interest. It contains several of the current classifications, including Rosai's own adaptation of the Rappaport classification, and the new, consensus International Formulation developed by the group headed by Costan

continued on page 54